SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, the Government employees of Doordarshan and All India Radio — programme staff and executives — are on a hunger strike from the 6th of December.

Some of them are going to die in the hospital but the Government is insentives. They are demanding restoration of parity and nothing more...*(Interruptions)* The people are dying. They are on an indefinite hunger strike from 6th of December. This question was repeatedly asked on the floor of the House and an assurance was given by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting that they had recommended to the Ministry of Finance and that they had agreed to the just demands of the programme staff. The Minister has made a public statement in this regard. The Finance Ministry has agreed to restore parity in respect of the pay scales of the programme executives and the engineering assistants but till today no progress has been made. Today you will find that the employees are on the road. They are dying. They are on a hunger strike. I wonder how a Government can be so insensitive to the just demands of its own employees. I, therefore, urge upon the Government that they should come out with some positive assurance and save the lives of the young men, its own employees who are on the road ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is already a part and parcel of the record. They want only a statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : I cannot compel the Government for everything.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir through you I would like to draw attention of the House towards a big corruption scandal. This scandal of Indian Bank to the tune of Rs. 1500 crores came into light on 9th November, 1992. High officials are also involved in it and CBI is enquiring into it but there are some officers in the Finance Ministry who are not granting permission to Inquire into and take necessary action against the officers of Indian Bank. Even one of the high officers involved in the scandal has now become an active member of TMC Party. It appears that the Government is trying to hush up this scandal of Rs. 1500 crores. Sir, through you, I would like to demand that the Government should inform the House about the action taken on this scandal since 1992...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH (Vidisha) : Sir, the Adivasi areas of Madhya Pradesh are reeling under famine. I have been giving notices for the last two weeks ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO (Mormugao) : Sir, as early as September 1995, the Konkan Railway Corporation had submitted plans to construct a Road Overbridge at the level crossing at Majorda-Goa. Everyone was in agreement with the plan. Suddenly three weeks ago, a bombshell was dropped on the people of the area by proposing to construct the Road Underbridge. The reasons given are: high cost of the overhead bridge and non-sharing of this high cost by the State Government. I regret to point out that no one has thought of the safety technical feasibililty and well-being of the poor people living around the area.

There is a water reservoir near it and the road could not be constructed under the bank of the shallow formation. Water will be logged and the area would be submerged posing a great hazard to the people. On 20th November, 1996, the Village Panchayats of Calatta-Majorda, Utorda, Majorda, Salcete-Goa has in its emergency meeting passed a resolution asking KRC to stop the work for Road Underbridge and restart the Road Overbridge. A few days ago, I visited the area and found people agitated and talking of going to the courts to reverse the proposal. The situation is fraught with tension, fear and may result in violence and litigation resulting in long delay to complete the project.

I, therefore, request the Central Government, personally the Railway Minister, to take remedial measures in time to avert an ugly turn. May I ask this august House whether the high cost of a project can be traded for the safety, well-being and convenience of the affected people?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat) : Sir, I have given a notice inviting the attention of the Finance Minister and the Government as a whole to the inordinate delay by the Fifth Central Pay Commission in submitting their report to the Government. Earlier, when this Central Pay Commission was appointed, the time given to them for making the report was one-and-a-half years. That expired in January, 1996. The Commission did not submit its report on the scheduled date. The date was then shifted to June, 1996. It was further shifted to September, 1996 and then I do not know whether it was further shifted to any other date. Unless the Central Pay Commision sumits its report, the Central Government employees, numbering about forty four lakhs, are being denied of their legitimate wage increase and other allowances. It is not only the forty lakh Central Government employees who are concerned, but their families too. And not only the Central Government employees and their families but one and a half crore State Government employees are also affected by this delay.

Therefore, the Government should take immediate initiative to persuade the Justice Pandiyan Commission to submit its report as early as possible and the Government should take a positive decision in the matter so that the legitimate demands and hopes and aspirations of the crores of Central Government and State Government employees are met without further delay. If any further delay is caused, it will be a very